

April 5, 2006

Agenda Date: April 18, 2006



The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Marcia Mayeda  
Director

Dear Supervisors:

**SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM FOR DOGS; MICROCHIPPING  
OF DOGS; ALTERED AND UNALTERED DOG LICENSE FEES**

**(ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC  
HEARING:**

Approve the accompanying ordinance amending Title 10 – ANIMALS  
of the Los Angeles County Code to:

1. Amend Los Angeles County Code § 10.08 Definitions:  
Amendment to “Hobby breeding”, add “Competition Dog” and  
“Unaltered.”
2. Amend Los Angeles County Code § 10.20 to add Part 4,  
Mandatory Spay and Neutering Program for Dogs.
3. Amend Los Angeles County Code § 10.20 to add  
Microchipping of Dogs Required.
4. Amend Los Angeles County Code § 10.90.010 to establish a  
new fee for altered and unaltered dog licenses to recover the  
costs of enforcement and to subsidize a low-cost dog  
sterilization fund.
5. Approve Appropriation Adjustment in the amount of \$75,000 to  
be offset by unanticipated revenues funded by increased dog  
license fees.
6. Introduce, waive reading, and adopt the enclosed Ordinance  
and fees at a subsequent meeting.



**Shelter locations**

11258 S. Garfield Ave.  
Downey, CA 90242  
(562) 940-6898

216 W. Victoria St.  
Gardena, CA 90248  
(310) 523-9566

4275 No. Elton  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
(626) 962-3577

5210 W. Avenue I  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
(661) 940-4191

31044 N. Charlie Cyn. Rd.  
Castaic, CA 91384  
(661) 257-3191

29525 Agoura Rd.  
Agoura, CA 91301  
(818) 991-0071

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Animal Overpopulation: The Department of Animal Care and Control is overwhelmed with dogs. In Fiscal Year 2004-2005 the department impounded 40,174 dogs, more than any other animal care and control agency in the nation. During that year 18,804 dogs were euthanized. Despite strong efforts to place dogs into new homes and reunite lost dogs with their owners, there are still not enough adoptive homes to absorb this surplus. There is a very strong demand from the public that animal care and control agencies work towards a “no-kill” model. That is an admirable goal and is one to which our agency strives. However, in order to reach that goal we must first greatly reduce the numbers of dogs flooding the shelter system. This ordinance will help us reach that goal by reducing the number of dogs born or running loose in Los Angeles County.

Public Safety: Stray dogs are public safety hazards, and unsterilized dogs are more likely to stray. Stray dogs can bite or attack people or other animals, cause traffic accidents, spread disease, damage property and harm the quality of life for residents in a community. During the last fiscal year 23,799 stray dogs were impounded by this department.

Unneutered males search for mates and are attracted in packs when female dogs come into heat. Interference between male dogs intent on breeding can be dangerous. Neutering male dogs is often one of the first recommendations made by animal behaviorists to reduce aggression. Testosterone acts as a modulator that makes dogs react more intensely. When an intact (unneutered) dog decides to react to something, he reacts more quickly, with greater intensity, and for a longer period of time. Intact males and females are more likely to display aggression related to sexual behavior than are neutered animals. Fighting, particularly in males and directed at other males, is less common after neutering.

Female dogs are often very protective of their litters and may bite if they feel their offspring are threatened. When related to the hormonal imbalance of false pregnancy or the agitation associated with estrus, irritable aggression in females is eliminated by spaying.

Animal Identification and Reunification: Positive identification that cannot be lost, falsified or altered is essential to reuniting lost pets with their families. Microchipping of animals has become a customary practice – millions of dogs and cats, horses, livestock, birds, wildlife and endangered species are chipped. Microchipping is a simple, non-surgical procedure. The microchip, which is

approximately the size of a grain of rice, is injected underneath the skin with a needle. There is no anesthesia required, and even the smallest animals such as fish, puppies and kittens are safely microchipped.

Hundreds of thousands of lost pets have been reunited with their distraught families because the pets were microchipped. While tags can become lost or damaged and tattoos can fade or be altered, microchips provide permanent identification with unique numbers that cannot be changed. Due to the presence of a microchip, this department has reunited owners with pets that had been missing for up to five years.

Of the 23,799 stray dogs that were impounded during the last fiscal year, only 6,004 were reclaimed by their owners. The most common reason dogs are not reclaimed is because they are not identified and an owner cannot be notified that their dog is at the animal shelter. Microchips will improve the department's returned-to-owner rate and lessen euthanasia in County shelters.

Microchipping of dogs is an important element of this ordinance because it is not always possible to verify the spayed status of a female dog. By requiring the microchipping of dogs the department will be able to fairly and correctly denote the reproductive status of female dogs, because the medical certification of the surgery will be noted in the dog's licensing records. By being microchipped, which is also noted in the dog's licensing records, the department will be able to verify with certainty whether the dog is in compliance with this ordinance.

Microchipping will also prevent the substitution of one dog for another in order to avoid compliance with this ordinance or attempts to fraudulently obtain an unaltered dog license. For example, purebred dogs closely resemble others within their breed. This department would not be able to positively discern and differentiate dogs of the same breed in order to enforce the provisions of this ordinance unless the dogs were microchipped.

Most importantly, the department would be able to positively identify the stray dogs impounded at County shelters. More dogs would be reunited with their families, and owners would be held more accountable for permitting their dogs to be at large. Public safety would be enhanced in this regard.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The proposed ordinance supports the following Countywide Strategic Plan Goals:

- Goal Number 1: *Service Excellence*, because fewer dogs will be at large in the community, thereby placing less demand on officer time. Officers will be able to respond more quickly to other calls for service.
- Goal Number 4: *Organizational Effectiveness*, because it will reduce the overpopulation of dogs and create more available cage space to hold adoptable animals, thereby reducing our euthanasia rate and moving the department to a no-kill model.
- Goal Number 8: *Public Safety* because fewer stray dogs will be at large causing public safety concerns.
- Goal Number 5: *Children and Families' Well-Being* because children are the most common bite victim of dogs and fewer stray dogs will ensure safer communities for our children.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Implementation of this program will require eight (8) additional positions to enforce the new ordinance, at a total cost of \$791,229. These eight positions include two Intermediate Typist Clerks and six Animal Control Officer I positions. These positions are necessary to provide enforcement, data management and tracking of records. The department estimates 33,000 unaltered dogs living in the unincorporated areas will be required to comply with this ordinance. By dividing the \$791,228 by 33,000 licenses, the additional cost per license to enforce the new ordinance is estimated to be approximately \$25.00. The Auditor-Controller has reviewed the calculations used to determine the amount of the new license fee and has determined that the proposed fee is reasonable.

The additional \$25.00 cost will be added to the current \$30.00 cost of an unaltered dog license, for a total of \$55.00. Further, the ordinance also raises each dog license fee (altered as well as unaltered) by \$5.00, which is to be set aside into a low-cost spay/neuter assistance fund. Therefore, the recommended new license fees are \$20.00 for an altered dog and \$60.00 for an unaltered dog. The additional \$5.00 per license fee will be used to pay for three additional veterinarians at department shelters to provide low-cost sterilization surgeries for

the public. In addition, these fees will fund vouchers that will be offered to low-income pet owners to help offset surgery costs at private veterinary hospitals.

Since this program will be primarily financed through dog licenses, there will be a period of time where the program is unfunded and this department requests authorization to spend \$75,000 that will be offset by unanticipated revenue. Most dog licenses renew in May and June. If passed, this ordinance will take effect before the license renewal revenue is realized and the low-cost assistance fund is created. In order to be able to provide low-cost assistance, the department requests authority to fund vouchers, with the understanding that this expense will be offset when licenses are renewed later this fiscal year.

In addition, the Found Animal Foundation has offered to pay for the microchipping and lifetime registration of 1,000,000 dogs in Los Angeles County. Therefore, complying with the microchipping requirements of this ordinance will have no fiscal impact on dog owners. Microchipping clinics will be offered at convenient times and locations to provide pet owners easy access to obtain microchips for their pets.

Since this is a new program, these costs estimates are based on the best estimates available. The department will closely monitor and track all revenues and expenses related to this ordinance and make any recommendations for modification to the Board.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to reduce uncontrolled breeding of dogs and thereby lessen the strain on Los Angeles County's animal shelters in capturing and caring for these animals. Less stray and abandoned dogs will improve public safety and reduce dog euthanasia in Los Angeles County.

The proposed ordinance establishes a mandatory spay and neuter program for dogs, requires microchipping of all dogs, and established new fees for dog licenses. This will require that all dogs be spayed or neutered unless one of the following applies:

- A veterinarian determines that the surgery is unsafe due to age or infirmity.
- The dog is a law enforcement dog and used by a law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes.

- The dog is a service dog that assists the disabled.
- The dog is a “competition” dog.

The exemption of “competition” dogs meets your Board's directive that legitimate dog breeders are provided with the opportunity to continue that activity. A “competition” dog is a dog which is used to show, to compete or to breed, and which is recognized by and registered with an approved dog breed registry. In addition, a competition dog must do one of the following:

- Compete in at least one sanctioned dog show or sporting competition per year; OR
- Earn a title in their area of competition from a sanctioning dog registry; OR
- The owner must be a member of a purebred dog breed club, approved by the department, which maintains and enforces a code of ethics for dog breeding.

This ordinance also prohibits the breeding of more than one litter per female dog per year, and no more than five litters per female dog during her lifetime. This restriction comports with generally accepted breeding principles that are customary in the codes of ethics of purebred dog breeder associations.

The sale and transfer of unaltered dogs is also regulated and owners must report the births, sales and transfers of these animals.

Enforcement: This ordinance will be enforced through the department's highly successful licensing enforcement program. The department employs 41 officers that provide field enforcement for delinquent or noncompliant pet licenses throughout the year. This department has an approximate 60% market penetration of dog licenses, compared with a national average of less than 10%. In addition, approximately 38% of all licenses collected by department officers are new licenses, proving that this field enforcement effort will work in enforcing the provisions of this proposed ordinance.

A stray unaltered dog that is impounded by the department will be spayed or neutered prior to being reclaimed by its owner, unless the owner demonstrates compliance with this ordinance.

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 66018, a public hearing must be held by the local authority prior to the adoption of a new fee or increase of existing fees. Notice of the public hearing shall be published in accordance with Government code Section 6062a.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the ordinance.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PRODUCTS)**

Approval of these recommendations will enhance the department's ability to protect public safety by reducing stray animals, reduce the euthanasia rate and reduce operating costs because fewer dogs will be impounded.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCIA MAYEDA  
Director  
Department of Animal Care and Control

Enclosure

MM:yd

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

## **ANALYSIS**

This ordinance amends Title 10 - Animals, of the Los Angeles County Code to establish a mandatory spay and neuter program for dogs; and to require that all dogs over the age of four months be implanted with an identifying microchip.

The ordinance includes amendments to Chapter 10.08 - Definitions: amends "Hobby breeder," adds definitions for "Competition dog" and "Unaltered"; adds a microchip requirement in Chapter 10.20; adds Part 4 - Mandatory Spay and Neuter Program for Dogs to Chapter 10.20 - Dogs and Cats; and amends Chapter 10.90 - Fees for Services and Activities, Section 10.90.010(VI)(A) to increase the fee to \$60 per year for an unaltered dog license and to \$20 per year for an altered dog license.

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.  
County Counsel

By  
DIANE C. REAGAN  
Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Health Services Division

DCR:ec



**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Title 10 - Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, to establish a mandatory spay and neuter program for dogs, to require microchipping of dogs, and to establish new fees for altered and unaltered dog licenses.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 10.08.155 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**10.08.155 Hobby breeder.**

"Hobby breeder" is any person, except for a person possessing a valid kennel license, who owns and breeds a ~~female~~ dog or cat and sells the offspring for pay or for other compensation.

**SECTION 2.** Section 10.08.095 is hereby added to read as follows:

**10.08.095 Competition dog.**

"Competition dog" includes a dog which is used to show, to compete or to breed, which is of a breed recognized by and registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC), American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA), or other valid registry approved by the department and meets one of the following requirements:

A. The dog has competed in at least one dog show or sporting competition sanctioned by a national registry or approved by the department, within the last 365 days;

B. The dog has earned a conformation, obedience, agility, carting, herding, protection, rally, sporting, working or other title from a purebred dog registry referenced above or other registry or dog sport association approved by the department; or

C. The owner or custodian of the dog is a member of a purebred dog breed club, approved by the department, which maintains and enforces a code of ethics for dog breeding that includes restrictions from breeding dogs with genetic defects and life threatening health problems that commonly threaten the breed.

**SECTION 3.** Section 10.08.225 is hereby added to read as follows:

**10.08.225 Unaltered.**

"Unaltered" means an animal which has not been spayed or neutered.

**SECTION 4.** Section 10.20.185 is hereby added to read as follows:

**10.20.185 Microchipping of Dogs Required.**

All dogs over the age of four months must be implanted with an identifying microchip. The owner or custodian is required to provide the microchip number to the department, and shall notify the department and the national registry applicable to the implanted chip, of a change of ownership of the dog, or a change of address or telephone number.

**SECTION 5.** Chapter 10.20, Dogs and Cats, is hereby amended to add Part 4  
Mandatory Spay and Neuter Program for Dogs to read as follows:

**Part 4**

**Mandatory Spay and Neuter Program for Dogs**

**Sections:**

- 10.20.350 Mandatory spaying, neutering of dogs.
- 10.20.355 Unaltered dog license - requirements.
- 10.20.360 Denial or revocation of unaltered dog license-grounds  
and re-application.
- 10.20.365 Appeal of denial or revocation of unaltered dog license.
- 10.20.370 Transfer, sale and breeding of unaltered dog.
- 10.20.375 Penalties.
- 10.20.380 Impoundment of unaltered dog.
- 10.20.385 Allocation of fees and fines collected.

**10.20.350 Mandatory spaying, neutering of dogs.**

A. No person may own, keep, or harbor a dog over the age of four months in violation of this section. An owner or custodian of an unaltered dog must have the dog spayed or neutered or obtain an unaltered dog license in accordance with Section 10.20.355.

B. The owner or custodian of a dog which is unable to be spayed or neutered without a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily harm or death due to age or infirmity, must obtain written confirmation of that fact from a licensed veterinarian. The writing must also state the date by which the dog may be safely spayed or neutered. If the dog is unable to be spayed or neutered within 30 days, the owner or custodian must apply for an unaltered dog license.

**10.20.355 Unaltered dog license - requirements.**

An owner or custodian of an unaltered dog over the age of four months must obtain an annual unaltered dog license for the dog. The license shall be issued if the department has determined that all of the following conditions are met:

A. The dog is one of the following: a competition dog as defined in Section 10.08.095; a dog used by a law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes; a qualified service or assistance dog as defined in Section 10.20.090; or a dog which is unable to be spayed or neutered as set forth in Section 10.20.350 B;

B. The owner or custodian has submitted the required application and has paid the fee set forth in Section 10.90.010(VI)(A); and

C. The unaltered dog will be maintained in accordance with the provisions of Los Angeles County Code Section 10.40.010, and with applicable state animal care and control laws.

**10.20.360 Denial or revocation of unaltered dog license-grounds and re-application.**

A. The department may deny or revoke an unaltered dog license for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The applicant or licensee is not in compliance with all of the requirements of Section 10.20.355;

2. The department has received at least one complaint, verified by the complainant under penalty of perjury, that the applicant or licensee has allowed a dog to run loose or escape, or has otherwise been found to be neglectful of his or her dog or other animals;

3. The applicant or licensee has been previously cited for violating a state law, county code or other municipal provision relating to the care and control of animals;

4. The unaltered dog has been adjudicated by a court or an agency of appropriate jurisdiction to be a potentially dangerous or vicious dog, or to be a nuisance within the meaning of the Los Angeles County Code or under state law;

5. Any unaltered dog license held by the applicant has been revoked;

6. A female unaltered dog has had more than one litter per year, or five or more litters in her lifetime; or

7. The license application is discovered to contain a material misrepresentation of fact.

B. Re-application for unaltered dog license:

1. When an unaltered dog license is denied, the applicant may re-apply for a license upon a showing that the requirements of Section 10.20.355 have been met. The department shall refund one-half of the license fee when an application is denied. The applicant shall pay the full fee upon re-application.

2. When an unaltered dog license is revoked, the owner or custodian of the dog may apply for a new license after a thirty-day waiting period upon a showing that the requirements of Section 10.20.355 have been met. No part of an unaltered dog license fee is refundable when a license is revoked and the applicant shall pay the full fee upon re-application.

**10.20.365 Appeal of denial or revocation of unaltered dog license.**

A. Request for hearing.

1. Notice of intent to deny or revoke. The department shall mail to the owner or custodian a written notice of its intent to deny or revoke the license for an unaltered dog which includes the reason(s) for the denial or revocation. The owner or custodian may request a hearing to appeal the denial or revocation. The request must be made in writing within ten days after the notice of intent to deny or revoke is mailed. Failure to submit a timely written hearing request shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal the license denial or revocation.

2. Hearing officer. The hearing shall be conducted by the director's designee.

3. Notice and conduct of hearing. The department shall mail a written notice of the date, time, and place for the hearing not less than ten days before the hearing date. The hearing date shall be no more than thirty days after the department's receipt of the request for a hearing. Failure of the owner or custodian or his or her agent to appear at the hearing will result in forfeiture of the right to a hearing. The hearing will be informal and the rules of evidence will not be strictly observed. The department shall mail a written decision to the owner or custodian within ten days after the hearing. The decision of the hearing officer shall be the final administrative decision.

B. Change in location of dog. If the dog is moved after the department has issued a letter of intent to deny or revoke, but has not yet denied or revoked the license, the owner or custodian must provide the department with information as to the dog's whereabouts, including the current owner or custodian's name, address, and telephone number.

#### **10.20.370 Transfer, sale and breeding of unaltered dog.**

A. Offer for sale or transfer of unaltered dog: An owner or custodian who offers any unaltered dog for sale, trade, or adoption must include a valid unaltered dog license number with the offer of sale, trade or adoption, or otherwise state and establish compliance with Section 10.20.350. The license and microchip numbers must appear on a document transferring the dog to the new owner.

B. Transfer of unaltered dog: The owner or custodian of an unaltered dog over the age of four months, which is not a competition dog as defined in Section 10.08.095, must demonstrate compliance with Section 10.20.350 and 10.20.185 prior to the transfer, and must notify the department of the name and address of the transferee within ten days after the transfer.

C. Notification of litter and sale or transfer of puppies: Within thirty days after a litter is born to a female dog, the owner or custodian of the female dog shall advise the department in writing of the number of live born puppies. When a puppy under the age of four months is sold or otherwise transferred to another person, the owner or custodian shall advise the department of the name and address of the new owner or custodian, and the microchip number of the puppy, if applicable, within ten days after the transfer.

#### **10.20.375 Penalties.**

The penalties for violations of any provision of this part are as follows:

A. First violation. A first violation shall be an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. If the owner or custodian fails to correct the underlying cause of the violation within 30 days after being notified of the violation, it shall be deemed a second violation.

B. Second violation. A violation within a year of a first violation shall be deemed a second violation. A second violation is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six months or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each subsequent violation within one year shall be considered an additional misdemeanor.



#### **10.20.380 Impoundment of unaltered dog.**

A. When an unaltered dog is impounded, the owner or custodian may reclaim the unaltered dog when one of the following occurs:

1. The dog is spayed or neutered by a department veterinarian at the expense of the owner or custodian. Such expense may include additional fees due to extraordinary care required;

2. The dog is spayed or neutered by another department approved veterinarian. The owner or custodian may arrange for another department approved veterinarian to spay or neuter the dog, and shall pay to the department the cost to deliver the dog to the chosen veterinarian. The cost to deliver the dog shall be based on the department's hourly rate established by the Auditor-Controller, billed in minimum one hour increments. The veterinarian shall complete and return to the department within ten days, a statement confirming that the dog has been spayed or neutered and shall release the dog to the owner or custodian only after the spay or neuter procedure is complete; or,

3. At the discretion of the director, the dog may be released to the owner or custodian if he or she signs a statement under penalty of perjury, representing that the dog will be spayed or neutered and that he or she will submit a statement within ten days, signed by the veterinarian, confirming that the dog has been spayed or neutered.

4. If the owner or custodian demonstrates compliance with Section 10.20.350.

B. Costs of Impoundment.

1. The owner or custodian of the unaltered dog shall be responsible for the costs of impoundment, which shall include daily board costs.

2. The costs of impoundment shall be a lien on the dog, and the unaltered dog shall not be returned to its owner or custodian until the costs are paid. If the owner or custodian of an impounded unaltered dog does not pay the lien against the dog in full within fourteen days, the dog shall be deemed abandoned to the department in accordance with Section 10.36.310.

**10.20.385 Allocation of fees and fines collected.**

All costs and fines collected under this part and the fees collected under Section 10.90.010 (VI)(A) shall be paid to the department for the purpose of defraying the cost of the implementation and enforcement of this Part 4.

**SECTION 6.** Section 10.90.010 (VI) is hereby amended to read as follows:

**10.90.010 Fee schedule.**

The fees required to be paid for all services and activities set forth in Title 10 are as follows, except that the director may waive any fees in cases of undue hardship:

. . .

VI. Individual Animal Licenses.

Fees

Every person owning a dog or cat over the age of four months shall obtain an annual license and tag for each such dog or cat; except, there shall be a one-time-only fee for registration of discharged military dogs,

for guide dogs or Seeing Eye dogs, for signal dogs trained to assist the hearing impaired, and for service dogs trained to perform tasks to assist the physically handicapped, upon payment of the following fees:

A. Dog license and tag fees:

Dogs over four months:

1.	<u>Unaltered (Unspayed/unneutered)</u> <u>(\$5 of each fee received is designated for</u> <u>low cost spay/neuter program)</u>	\$ <del>30.00</del>	<u>\$60.00</u>
2.	<u>Altered (Spayed/neutered)</u> <u>(\$5 of each fee received is designated for</u> <u>low cost spay/neuter program)</u>	<del>15.00</del>	<u>20.00</u>
<del>3.</del>	<del>Omitted by Ord. 2000-0075.</del>		
<del>4.</del> <u>3</u>	Senior citizen -- Spayed/neutered dog	7.50	
<del>5.</del> <u>4</u>	Delinquency charge for annual license renewal not obtained on or before date of expiration	20.00	
<del>6.</del> <u>5</u>	Replacement of tag or official license receipt	5.00	
<del>7.</del> <u>6</u>	Transfer of ownership	5.00	
<del>8.</del> <u>7</u>	Discharged military dogs (one-time	5.00	

registration fee)

9. <u>8</u> Guide dogs or Seeing Eye dogs, signal dogs, and service dogs (one-time registration fee)	5.00
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B. Cat license fees:

1. Unspayed/unneutered	10.00
2. Spayed/neutered	5.00
3. Replacement cat tag	5.00
4. Transfer of ownership	5.00

C. Cat licensing, kennel exception:

Up to five cats may be kept at any residence without a kennel license, provided the cats' owner or custodian licenses each individual animal, has each animal spayed or neutered and keeps all cats primarily indoors.

D. Other animals -- Licenses required:

1. Pygmy pigs	50.00
2. Wild animals	100.00

E. Voluntary identification and registration:

Any dog or cat may be registered in the department's Voluntary Identification Program. Such animal shall be assigned an identification number by tattoo, microchip or other available means of identification, at the owner's request, upon the payment of the following fees:

1.	Initial identification and registration	20.00
2.	Annual renewal	10.00
3.	Transfer of ownership	5.00

. . .

[Title10-SNRD-DCRCC}